

BAUHINIA LUNARIOIDES: A MISAPPLIED NAME¹

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Torrey (1859) described what he believed to be a new species of the caesalpinoid legume genus *Casparia* based on a fragmentary specimen collected by C. C. Parry from Mexico during the United States and Mexican boundary survey. His brief description is as follows: *Casparia*, n. sp.? Rocky hills near Santa Rosa, Chihuahua; Parry. An erect shrub, 2-3 feet high. Branches slender, flexuous, smooth. Leaflets distinct to the base, semiovate, very obtuse. 3-nerved, very smooth. Pods (old and imperfect) about 2 inches long and one-third of an inch wide.

Nineteen years later Watson (1878) published a manuscript name of Asa Gray, *Bauhinia lunarioides*, citing Torrey's description. This constituted valid publication of a new species of *Bauhinia*.

Recently a specimen was located in the Gray Herbarium which I have determined to be the holotype of *Bauhinia lunarioides* Gray ex Watson. The specimen consists of a sterile and apparently juvenile branch with fragments of an old fruit in the attached packet. The sheet, I believe, is unquestionably that from which Torrey wrote his description of the species. Label data written in pen with black ink conforms in part to that given by Torrey in his description: *Rocky hills near Santa Rosa, Jany* [sic, January] 1853. *A shrub 2-3 feet high. Only vestiges of pods were found.* In the upper right corner of the label written in the same manner as the above is the number 2901a and written in pencil near the top of the label in apparently the same hand is found: *Casparea* [sic], n. sp. — Torr. Comparison of handwriting on manuscripts at the Missouri Botanical Garden indicate that it appears to be that of C. C. Parry. However, written on the label in pencil and in an unknown hand is the name *Bauhinia*. Also written on

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the sheet in pencil in a second unknown hand is *B. lunarioides* Gray juvenile and near the label and in pen with blue ink is Coahuila: MEXICO. Although a comparison of handwriting in the manuscript collection at the Missouri Botanical Garden did not reveal the identity of either of the latter two handwritings, all other evidence indicates that this sheet is the holotype specimen of *Bauhinia lunarioides* Gray ex Wats.

The species represented by the type specimen of *Bauhinia lunarioides* Gray ex Wats. is that which is going under the currently accepted name of *Bauhinia congesta* (Britt. & Rose) Lundell. The latter name must therefore be replaced with the earlier name *B. lunarioides*. The complete synonymy for this species is as follows:

Bauhinia lunarioides Gray ex Wats., Bibl. Ind. N. Amer. Bot. 205. 1878. TYPE: Mexico: Coahuila: Parry 2901a (HOLOTYPE: GH).

Casparia congesta Britt. & Rose, N. Amer. Fl. 23: 211. 1930. TYPE: Mexico: Coahuila: Palmer 285 (HOLOTYPE: US; ISOTYPES: LE, NY, P, VT).

Casparia jermlyana Britt. in Britt. & Rose, N. Amer. Fl. 23: 211. 1930. TYPE: United States: Texas: Jermly s.n. (HOLOTYPE: NY).

Bauhinia congesta (Britt. & Rose) Lundell, Phytologia 1: 214. 1937.

Bauhinia jermlyana (Britt.) Lundell. Phytologia 1: 214. 1937.

Further confusion was brought about by Britton and Rose (1930) when they subsequently described an entirely different species of *Bauhinia* which they unfortunately named *Casparia lunarioides*, again using a Gray manuscript name. These workers then compounded the confusion by incorrectly placing *Bauhinia lunarioides* Gray ex Wats. in synonymy under their new species. *Casparia lunarioides* Gray ex Britt. & Rose is now correctly placed in synonymy under *Bauhinia macranthera* Benth. ex Hemsl. and the complete synonymy for this species is as follows:

Bauhinia macranthera Benth. ex Hemsl., *Diag. Pl. Nov.* 49. 1880. TYPE: Mexico: Hidalgo: *Coulter s.n.* (HOLOTYPE: K, not seen).

Bauhinia retifolia Standl., *Contr. U.S. Nat. Herb.* 23: 416. 1922. TYPE: Mexico: San Luis Potosi: *Purpus* 5268 (HOLOTYPE: US; ISOTYPES: F, MO, NY, UC).

Casparia lunarioides Gray ex Britt. & Rose, *N. Amer. Fl.* 23: 212. 1930. TYPE: Mexico: Nuevo Leon: *Pringle* 2529 (HOLOTYPE: US; ISOTYPES: A, F, GH, MO, NY, P, UC, VT).

Casparia macranthera (Benth. ex Hemsl.) Britt. & Rose, *N. Amer. Fl.* 23: 212. 1930.

Casparia retifolia (Standl.) Britt. & Rose, *N. Amer. Fl.* 23: 213. 1930.

Bauhinia macranthera var. *grayana* Wunderlin, *Phytologia* 15: 53. 1967.

My first interpretation of *Bauhinia macranthera*, based on herbarium study, was that it consisted of two varieties: var. *macranthera* and var. *grayana*. However, in recent field studies of this species I observed that the characteristics used in delimiting these taxa break down completely. Thus I now recognize only a single taxon.

LITERATURE CITED

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- TORREY, J. 1859. *In* W. H. Emory: *Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey. Botany of the Boundary* 2(1): 29-270.
- WATSON, S. 1878. *Bibliographic Index of North American Botany*. *Smiths. Inst. Misc. Collect.* 15: 1-476.

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